

**Chair' Summary – Salient Points of Discussion**  
**Special Event of the 56<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs:**  
**Launch of the World Drug Report 2013**  
**26 June 2013**

*Wednesday, 26 June 2013, Boardroom-D (C-Building)*

1. The **Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, H.E. Mr. Antonio García Revilla (Peru)**, welcomed participants to the Special Event of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its 56<sup>th</sup> session. During this event, held on the United Nations International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, the 2013 World Drug Report was launched. The Chair informed the meeting that the Special Event was held in the framework of the intersessional work of the Commission, in view of the preparations for its 2014 high-level review of the implementation by Member States of the *Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem*.

2. The meeting was reminded that, in its resolution 56/12, entitled “*Preparations for the high-level review of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem*” adopted in March 2013, the Commission decided, *inter alia*, that the medium-term review shall take into account, among others, relevant studies and reports from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The Chair indicated that the World Drug Report provided annually one of the most complete pictures of the international drug problem and, hence, could serve as a key information source for Member States in their preparations for the 2014 high-level review.

3. During the **morning session**, **statements were delivered by the following high-level speakers:** the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations; the Executive Director of UNODC; the State Secretary of Austria; the President of the Senate of Italy; the Director of the Federal Drug Control Service of the Russian Federation; the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy of the White House of the United States of America; the Deputy Minister of Interior of Afghanistan; the Deputy Minister of Interior of Ghana; the National Drug Coordinator of the Home Office of the United Kingdom; the Head of the Sogd region Drug control Agency of Tajikistan; the Permanent Representative of Sudan speaking as Chair of the Group of G-77 and China; the Permanent Representative of Guatemala speaking as Chair of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; the Permanent Representative of India; the Deputy Permanent Representative of Ireland speaking on behalf of the Presidency of European Union; the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Minister of Interior of the Islamic Republic of Iran; the Permanent Representative of Thailand; the President of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB); the Secretary-General of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe; the Executive Secretary of the Commonwealth of Independent States; and the Chairman of the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs.

4. The **Deputy Secretary-General, Mr. Jan Eliasson**, emphasized that the world drug problem was a serious obstacle to economic development and social well-being, undermined the respect for human rights and the rule of law and led to increasing levels of violence and insecurity, to be addressed through an integrated, multidisciplinary and balanced approach. He also stressed the importance of the principle of common and shared

responsibility as well as the fundamental role played by the three international drug control conventions, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the relevant international counter-terrorism instruments. He mentioned that, together, the UN Drug Control Conventions form the basis of an effective, fair and humane criminal justice response, implemented within the framework of the rule of law and respect for human rights. The Deputy Secretary-General also emphasized that seeing drug use also as a health issue was pivotal to the overall strategy of the international community and that public health measures deserved a strong focus. Prevention and treatment were vital, as well as awareness raising among youth and children. He mentioned that, recognizing the evolving threat of illicit drugs trafficking, the international community had created a platform to discuss the different aspects of the problem and urged Member States to seize the opportunities offered by the 2014 CND high-level review of the *Political Declaration and Plan of Action* and the 2016 General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem to exchange ideas and lessons on what has, and has not, worked in the fight against drugs and crime and pursue an open and comprehensive debate. He mentioned that, as the international community worked to shape a global agenda for peace, development and human rights, it should address the drug and crime threats coherently and effectively for the benefit of all.

5. The **Executive Director of UNODC, Mr. Yury Fedotov**, emphasized that it was the first time that the World Drug Report was launched in Vienna in the context of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which was especially significant in view of the 2014 high-level review by the CND of the implementation by Member States of the *Political Declaration and Plan of Action*. He recalled that the CND had adopted resolution 56/12 in March 2013, on the preparations for the 2014 high-level review, in which the Commission recommended to the General Assembly that the CND play its leading role in the preparatory process for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be convened in early 2016. He also highlighted some of the major challenges facing the international community in the area of international drug control, including: the continuing challenge of tackling illicit production in Afghanistan; economic and political instability in Africa fuelled by drug trade and organized crime; and the continuing problem of HIV transmissions through injecting drug use; rising levels of drug-related violence, including in Central America. The Executive Director said that the international drug control conventions were helping to contain illicit drugs but there were distinct challenges regarding their interpretation. He underlined that the real issue was not to amend the conventions but to implement them according to their original spirit and intention. The first step towards achieving this goal was to recognize that the conventions were created to protect the health and welfare of mankind. The Executive Director stressed that UNODC promoted a balanced approach to illicit drugs founded on fundamental human rights. He closed by stressing that, on the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, it was worth remembering that the conventions were a powerful tool in the hands of the international community, but they needed to be used in the right way if the millions of victims of illicit drugs were to be helped.

6. During the **afternoon session**, chaired by **H.R.H. Ms. Bajrakitiyabha Mahidol (Thailand), Second Vice-Chair of the 56<sup>th</sup> session of the CND**, the World Drug Report was presented by **the Deputy Executive Director and Director of the Division for Policy Analysis of UNODC, Mr. Sandeep Chawla**, and by **the Chief of the Research and Trend Analysis Branch of UNODC, Ms. Angela Me**. Presentations by the Secretariat were also made on the following topics: recent trends in the drug markets; the issue of new psychoactive substances (NPS); and the establishment of an early warning system for new psychoactive substances.

7. The delegations of Mexico, the Russian Federation, India, Spain, Japan, Australia, and the United Kingdom took the floor during the interactive discussion. Salient points raised by speakers in the interactive discussion after the presentation by the Secretariat of the World Drug Report included the following:

- The World Drug Report presented a comprehensive picture of the world drug problem including regarding the increasing problem posed by new psychoactive substances as well as regarding recent trends in the other “traditional” drug markets;
- Delegations commented on some of the programmes that they were carrying out in collaboration with UNODC and expressed their intention to provide continuing support, in some cases also financially, for enhancing the monitoring of new psychoactive substances and the diversion of precursors; the importance and effectiveness of the Global SMART programme was highlighted;
- One delegation commented on the links between decreases in the demand for cocaine and the increase in its seizure as well as regarding the stable use of amphetamine-type stimulants and the increase in their seizure. It was highlighted that, from the data available, it was not possible to know whether decrease in or stable demand of these drugs was mostly due to demand reduction or supply reduction strategies; in this sense, the importance of the integrated and balanced approach was stressed;
- Delegations also stressed their appreciation for the establishment of the new webpage for the World Drug Report which offered, inter alia, a tool for Member States to present feedback; this was deemed to be a valuable addition to the continuing dialogue that should be held between the UNODC and the Member States in the preparation of the Report;
- Comments were also made regarding the use of the term “people who inject drugs (PWIDs)” versus the previously used term “injecting drug users (IDUs)”; one delegation emphasized that the new term was more appropriate for focusing the attention on the individual and stressing the fact that drug use was a health problem and was related to the fundamental dignity of human beings;
- One delegation raised questions regarding the source of information and methodology used for the information presented in the World Drug Report regarding the probable sources of new psychoactive substances; the delegation stressed that it looked forward to continuing to hold an ongoing dialogue with the UNODC and the INCB regarding cooperation in addressing the pressing issue of NPS;
- It was stressed that the rising problem posed by NPS required political and financial commitment by Member States as well as consolidated efforts, and that solutions to this “new” problem needed to be sought through the international drug control conventions, which provided the necessary tools to address the issue, and through the existing international drug control regime; it was further stressed that the 2014 high-level review by the CND of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action as well as the 2016 Special Session of the General Assembly on the World Drug Problem were opportunities for discussing new challenges, including the scheduling of NPS;
- Delegations also stressed their appreciation and support for the establishment of the early warning system for new psychoactive substances. It was emphasized that the data Member States provided through this newly established system, as well as through the Annual Reports Questionnaire, were invaluable for making timely and informed policy decisions.

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